

MCCONAGHY ESTATE
18701 Hesperian Boulevard
San Lorenzo
Alameda County
California

HALS CA-35
CA-35

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

McCONAGHY ESTATE

HALS NO. CA-35

Location: 18701 Hesperian Boulevard, San Lorenzo, Alameda County, CA
Lat: 38.51958 Long: -123.24696

Significance: The bronze dedication plaque at the McConaghy House, installed by the Joaquin Murrieta Chapter of E Clampus Vitus society states, "This 12 room Victorian farmhouse represents the beauty and elegance of a bygone era." The estate is significant as one of three remaining original farmhouses in San Lorenzo.

History: The 12 room Stick-Eastlake Victorian style house was built by Neal and Sara McConaghy in 1886. It was designed and built by John Haar, Sr who later became mayor of the City of Hayward. The McConaghy's and their son John owned and lived in the house until 1972, over 85 years and then willed it to Shrines' Hospital who sold it to the Hayward Area Recreation Department (HARD).

Neal McConaghy was born in 1828 in Antrim County, Ireland and came to California in 1853 during the gold rush. He returned to San Lorenzo in 1858 and worked as a ranch hand. After saving his money he started a gristmill which proved profitable. That enabled him to purchase 197 acres where he built his first home on Grant Avenue and to marry Sara McCaw, also from Ireland. In 1886 he purchased property on Hesperian Boulevard (formerly Telegraph Road) and built the McConoghy Estate.

Today 3.5 acres remain of the original property and a portion of the property is now Kennedy Park. In addition to the residence the property has a nicely restored tank house and carriage house. The grounds include what appears to be the original entry drive alignment, though the asphalt paved surface and concrete curb and gutter are not original. It also includes several large specimen trees including: blue atlas cedar, southern magnolia, taxus, camphor, Norfolk Island pine, holly, deodar cedar, and a row of orange trees. There is a newly planted rose garden with heritage roses, a boxwood hedge and historic farm equipment on display.

Sources: "Introduction to the History of San Lorenzo" by Doris Marciel,
www.sanlorenzoexpress.com/history/hxintor.htm/.

"Plan Your Visit: McConaghy House".
www.haywardareahistory.org/plan_visit/mcconaghy_house.

Historic Spots in California, Mildred Brooke Hoover, Hero Eugene Rensch, Ethel Grace Rensch, William N. Abeloe, Revised by Douglas E. Kyle, Fifth Edition, Stanford University Press, 2002.

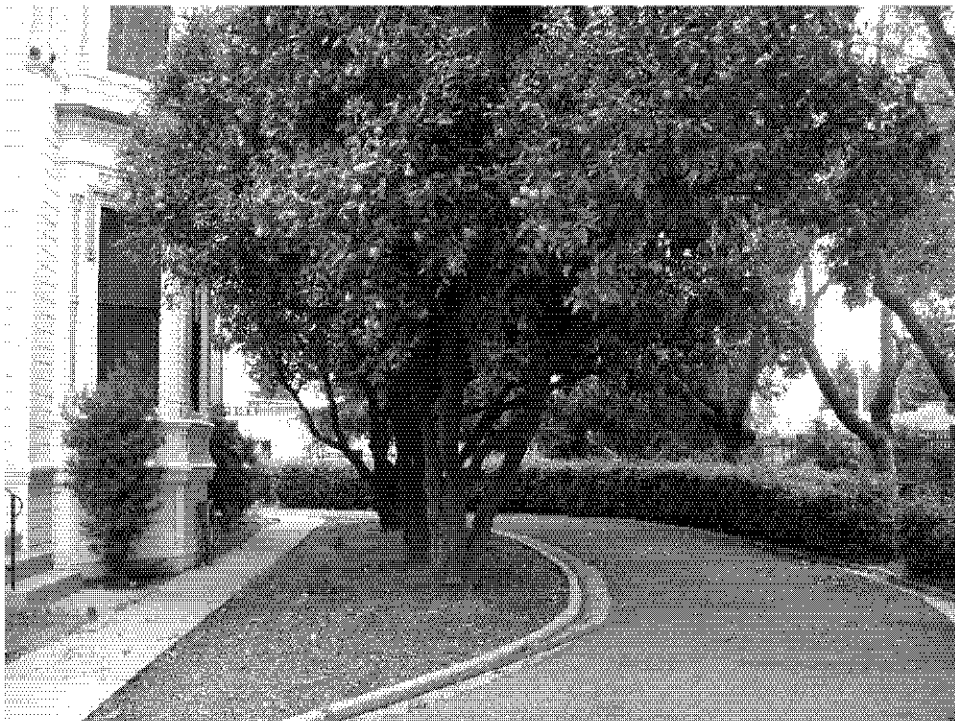
Conversation with Diane Curry, Curator Hayward Historical Society (510) 581-0223.

Site visit by Chris Pattillo, February 21, 2009. Responses to questions by volunteer docent at the house.

Historian: Chris Pattillo, Landscape Architect, July 25, 2009
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Front garden showing front porch, semi-circular entry drive and specimen trees including a large, multi-trunk Taxus a flowering Magnolia soulangiana, a Blue Atlas Cedar and Camphor trees. Boxwood hedge along the drive (Chris Pattillo, February 21, 2009).



Sideyard showing row of 4 original orange trees, the circular drive and boxwood hedge (Chris Pattillo, February 21, 2009).